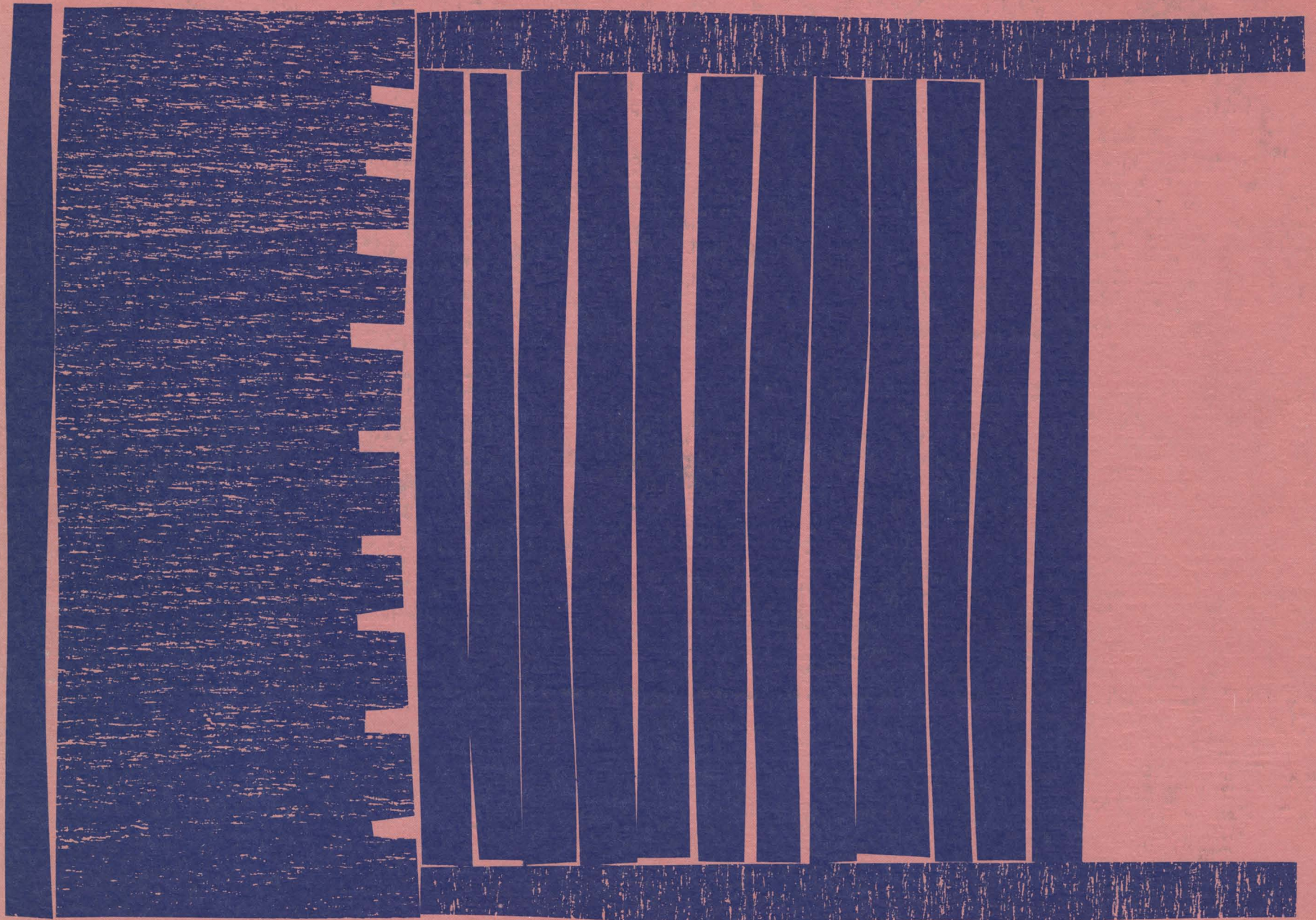


# WASHBOARD BAND

## COUNTRY DANCE MUSIC

Recorded under the supervision of Pete Seeger / Folkways Records FA 2201



cindy · bottle up and go · cripple creek  
john henry · old joe clark · skip to my lou · green corn



# WASHBOARD BAND

Folkways Records FA 2201

Cindy  
Bottle Up and Go  
Cripple Creek  
John Henry  
Old Joe Clark  
Skip To My Lou  
Green Corn

NONLITITISNI NINOSHILIMS  
CENTER FOR FOLKLIFE PROGRAMS  
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RETURN TO ARCHIVE

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES ARE INSIDE POCKET

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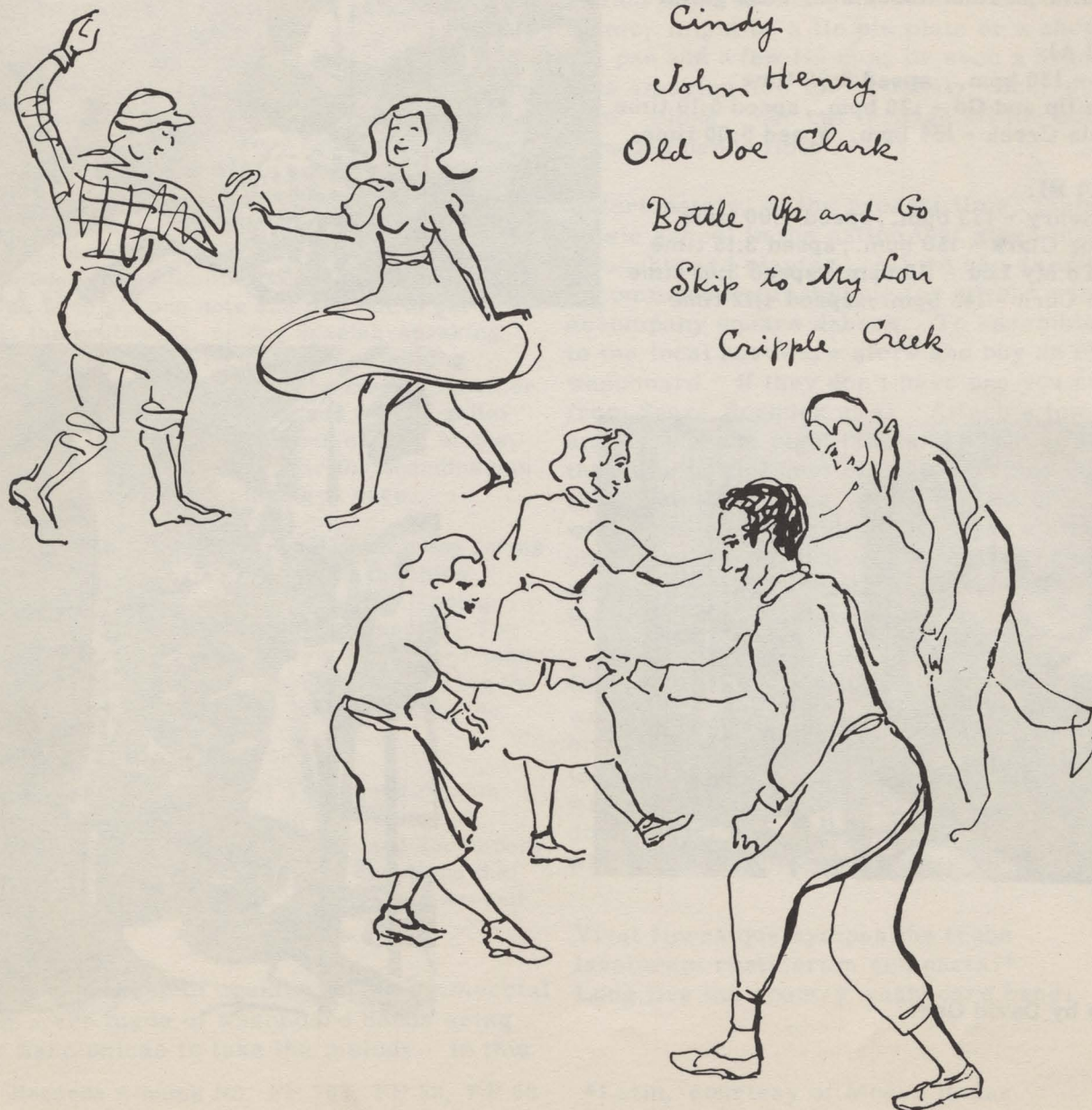
FOLKWAYS RECORDS Album No. FA 2201

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# Washboard Country Band

## Dance Tunes

*Cindy*  
*John Henry*  
*Old Joe Clark*  
*Bottle Up and Go*  
*Skip to My Lou*  
*Cripple Creek*





**COUNTRY DANCE MUSIC WASHBOARD BAND**  
Recorded under the supervision of Pete Seeger

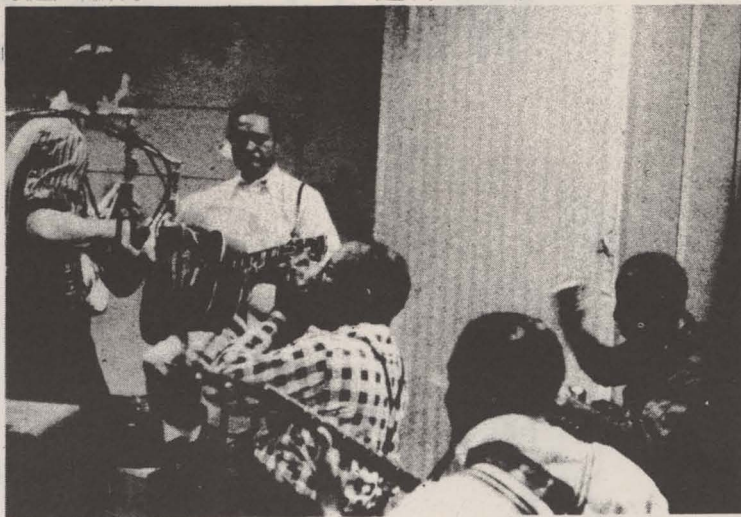
With: William Edward Cook, washboard; Pete Seeger,  
5-string banjo; Sonny Terry, harmonica; Brownie  
McGhee, guitar; Frank Robertson, bass guitar.

**SIDE I (FP 601 A):**

- Band 1. Cindy - 130 bpm., speed 6:00 time
- Band 2. Bottle Up and Go - 120 bpm., speed 5:10 time
- Band 3. Cripple Creek - 155 bpm., speed 5:00 time.

**SIDE II (FP 601 B):**

- Band 1. John Henry - 133 bpm., speed 4:00 time
- Band 2. Old Joe Clark - 150 bpm., speed 3:15 time
- Band 3. Skip To My Lou - 110 bpm., speed 3:05 time
- Band 4. Green Corn - 145 bpm., speed 4:12 time



Photographs by David Gahr



## THE COUNTRY WASHBOARD BAND

### Introduction by Peter Seeger

Styles in country dance music change from generation to generation. In Thomas Jefferson's day most dancers were accompanied by a solo fiddle. Later on in the nineteenth century banjos and guitars were added.

Just as there are many varieties of popular dance instrumentations using wind instruments, there are many regional varieties of country dance orchestras. In the north the tendency is to the use of pianos; in the south, electrified string instruments, particularly the (electrified) Hawaiian guitar. Louisiana has a distinguishing feature in its country dance music -- the old-fashioned "wind jammer" accordion, the kind that you push in to get one note and pull out to get another. In the southwest, among Spanish-speaking people whole orchestras are composed of nothing but guitars. One guitar will carry the melody, another guitar takes just the bass obligatos and a third guitar will only the the chords. In the north central states, such as Minnesota, you can still hear the Scandinavian technique of several fiddlers playing at once.

The Negro people in America carried on in many forms the African tradition that the "rhythm is the thing." "Plantation parties" often used nothing but clapping and the rattling of 'bones' to accompany dancing. Today, in the streets of New York City you can hear teenage rhythm bands composed of a bongo drum (taking the solo) and a cokebottle and a waste basket (taking the accompaniment).\*

Who it was that invented the first washboard rhythm section we don't know. Probably in the nineteenth century some ingenious man or woman tried accompanying a dance with the rattling of tin pans and found that the rippling sound of thimbles on a washboard worked well with it.

In the 1920's a number of country style commercial recordings were made of washboard bands using kazoos or harmonicas to take the melody. In this

half of the 20th Century they can still be found in many corners of the country, but especially in the south. Various instruments will take the melody - fiddle, harmonica, guitar, mandolin - but note that the washboard, carrying the rhythm, still remains the central instrument.

A well equipped washboard is shown in the picture. Nailed to an ordinary tin washboard, with wooden frame, might be a tin pie plate or a cheap tin frying pan and a few tin cups or even a brass cowbell. It is amazing how the "clickety, tick, pling clunk, punk, clonk" can cut through all the noises of a crowded dance floor.

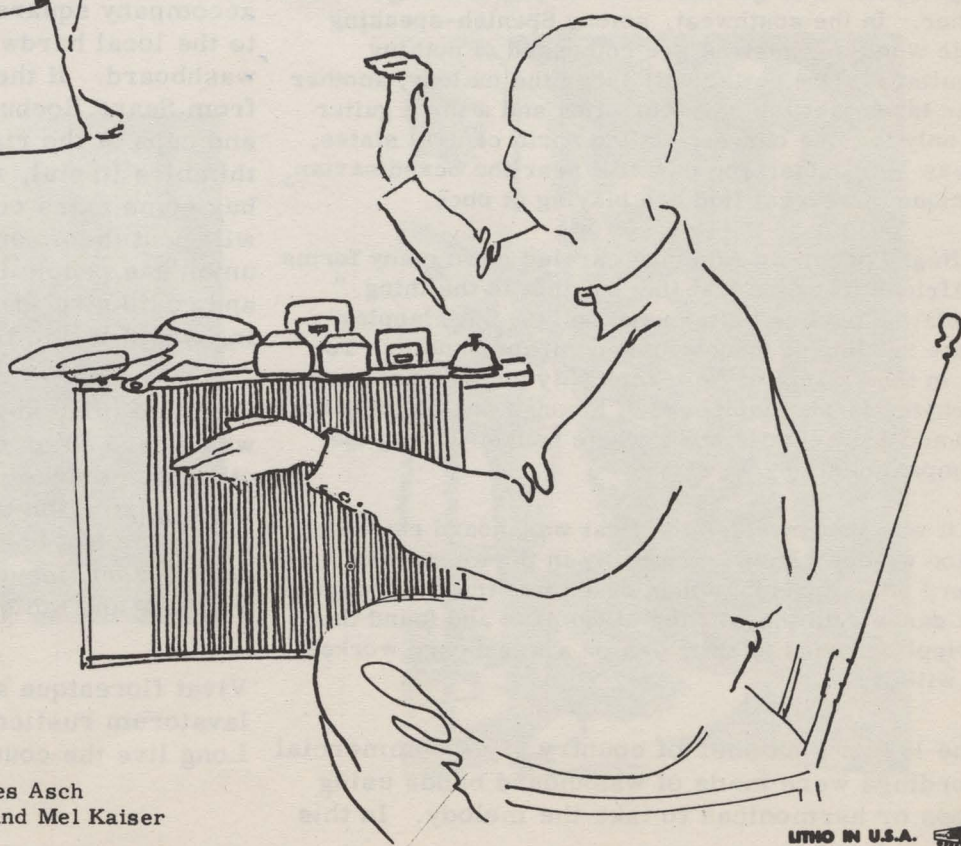
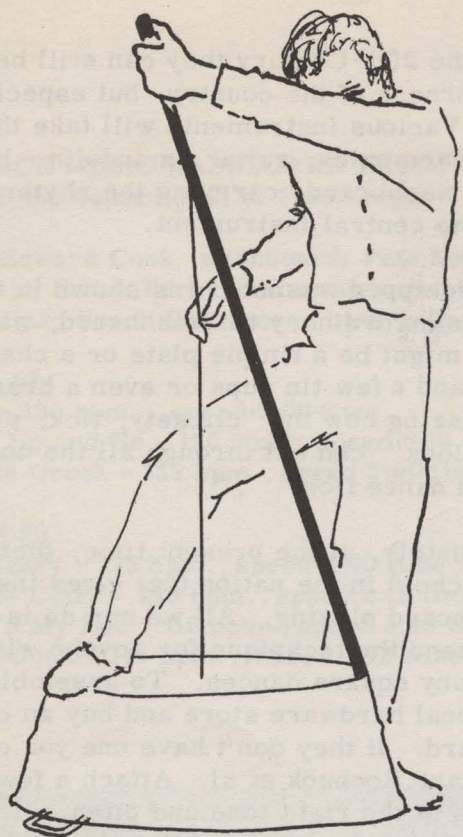
Unfortunately, at the present time, there is no music school in the nation that gives instruction in washboard playing. All we can do is highly recommend the technique for anyone wishing to accompany square dances. To assemble one, go to the local hardware store and buy an old fashioned washboard. If they don't have one you can order it from Sears Roebuck et al. Attach a few tin plates and cups of the right tone and pitch. Get a set of thimbles (metal, not the plastic kind). Be sure to buy some extra ones, since a night of hard playing will dent them considerably. Every state in the union has people in it who can play the washboard and could give instruction. Conscientious searching would locate them.

One nice thing about the homemade character of the washboard as an instrument is that it encourages other homemade instruments. The washtub bass (see illustration to the right), or the jug which will give off a bass throb when "beeped" into; don't forget tissue paper on a comb, penny whistles and tablespoons rattled on the knee.

Vivat floreatque sympsalma trabe  
lavatorum rusticorum compacta!\*

Long live the country washboard band!





Drawings by Pete Seeger  
Production Director, Moses Asch  
Recorded by Moses Asch and Mel Kaiser

**FOLKWAYS Records**

AND SERVICE CORP., 701 7th Ave., N.Y.C.

Long Playing Non-Breakable Micro Groove 33-1/3 RPM

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**COUNTRY DANCE MUSIC WASHBOARD BAND**

Recorded under the supervision of Pete Seeger

William Edward Cook-washboard; Pete Seeger-

5-string banjo; Sonny Terry-harmonica; Brownie

McGhee-guitar; Frank Robertson-bass

**SIDE I**

**FA 2201 A**

Band 1. CINDY

130 bpm. speed 6:00 time

Band 2. BOTTLE UP AND GO

120 bpm. speed 5:10 time

Band 3. CRIPPLE CREEK

155 bpm. speed 5:00 time



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McGhee-guitar; Frank Robertson-bass

SIDE II

FA 2201 B

- Band 1. JOHN HENRY  
133 bpm. speed 4:00 time
- Band 2. OLD JOE CLARK  
150 bpm. speed 3:15 time
- Band 3. SKIP TO MY LOU  
110 bpm. speed 3:05 time
- Band 4. GREEN CORN  
145 bpm. speed 4:12 time